

INFORMATION REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION

[Information retrieved from <http://ag.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise/indoortips.htm>]

SHOWERHEADS [AND HELP FOR FAUCETS]

To check the flow rate of your existing showerhead, turn the shower on all the way and see how long it takes to fill a one-gallon plastic milk jug (you may have to cut a piece of the neck off the jug so it will fit over the showerhead.), or a one-gallon bucket.

If your showerhead fills a one-gallon container in less than 15 seconds, it is using more than 4 gallons per minute of water. Make plans to replace high water use showerheads with more efficient high-performance models. There are many excellent showerheads on the market. Your local hardware or plumbing-supply store is a good source. When buying a showerhead, be sure that it delivers no more than 2 1/2 gallons per minute; 1 1/2 to 2 gpm is even better. the "feel" of the shower --misty, pounding, etc.-- varies widely with the brand and model. Some models have a fingertip valve so that you can adjust the flow without changing the temperature.

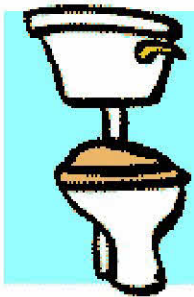
Low-flow showerheads also help reduce home energy use through reduced gas and electrically heated water. Individual preferences, such as duration and frequency of showers will also determine the amount of water and energy you save.

Information obtained from <http://cwcb.state.co.us/owc/freefa.htm##6%20-%20Showerheads> [Colorado Office of Water Conservation]

Second in water consumption in the bathroom is the shower, but the amount of water used for showering has been significantly reduced since the 1994 federal standard took effect. This requires that all showerheads sold in the United States restrict water flow to 2.5 gallons per minute. Most consumers have accepted it without complaint because, unlike the first reduced-flow toilets, most people do not discern a difference when using the modified showerheads. Some of them reduce the flow below the 2.5-gallon per minute standard. Love, who has tried a few, reported that even with less water "they still feel like a shower."

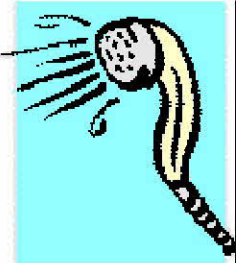
A close third in water consumption in the bathroom are faucets. Over the course of a year, the average adult uses only slightly less water at the bathroom sink than in the shower. But since the 1994 federal standards went into effect, the amount of water used at the sink has been significantly reduced. The standard limits faucet flow to 2.2 gallons per minute.

Information obtained from <http://doityourself.com/waterfilter/waterconservation.htm> [doityourself.com]

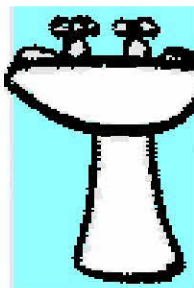


Toilets: All toilets manufactured after 1993 are called ULFT (Ultra Low Flush Toilets). They use 1.6 gallons each flush. Toilets that were manufactured in 1979 or earlier use 5 gallons per flush, and from 1980 to 1993 use 3.5 gallons per flush.

How do you know when your toilet was manufactured? Lift up the lid on the tank and look for a stamped date inside the lid or on the upper edge of the tank. The date will clue you in on the amount used per flush.



Showers: Most showerheads that were manufactured before 1994 use 5 gallons per minute. After 1994, federal plumbing standards required showerheads to flow no more than 2.5 gallons per minute. In homes, some showerheads may have been converted from 5 gallons per minute to 2.5 gallons per minute by inserting a small plastic disk with a hole in it into the showerhead. This method has been received by the public with mixed satisfaction. If you have one in your showerhead and don't like it, replace the showerhead with a new one.



Sinks: Check to make sure you have an aerator screwed into your faucet. There will be a screen on it and it has various reducing parts in it. If you take it apart to clean it, remember the order of the parts! Aerators reduce the water flow to 2.5 gallons per minute. If your [sink drips](#), most likely washers are the culprits. Check [Gadgets](#) for more water savings.